

by more than 350 members of the House of Representatives from all fifty states.

CAP's World War II story is unique and not well known across the nation. It is also reflective of the volunteer spirit that has been a hallmark of the nation since its founding days.

The Civil Air Patrol was officially established on December 1, 1941 just one week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. During World War II these unpaid volunteers provided extraordinary humanitarian and combat services during a critical time of need for the nation. CAP members used their own aircraft to perform a myriad of essential tasks including attacks on enemy submarines off the Atlantic coast and along the Gulf of Mexico.

The success of the coastal patrol service spawned other missions on behalf of the war effort. These included nighttime tracking missions for searchlights. Along the Rio Grande, CAP aircraft flew 30,000 hours to prevent illegal border crossings and report unusual activities. CAP's courier service carried over 3.5 million pounds of cargo, flying more than 20,000 miles daily. Its search and rescue service helped locate lost military aircraft in isolated mountains and forested terrain. Fire patrols, disaster relief, medevac, and observation flights to check the effectiveness of blackouts, were but a handful of the other operations completed by CAP.

During the war, over 200,000 Americans served in CAP. Notably, the Civil Air Patrol served as a pioneering opportunity for the nation's women to serve the nation in uniform. Countless women received flight training, representing a catalyst for increasing female participation in civil aviation. By war's end CAP volunteers had flown more than 750,000 hours with a total loss of 65 members and 150 aircraft.

Postwar, CAP became a valuable nonprofit, public service organization chartered by Congress. Today it is the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, charged with providing essential emergency, operational and public services to communities nationwide and the military.

More than seventy years after CAP's founding, I am proud that Congress is taking this step to recognize the invaluable service CAP provided to the nation during World War II. I especially want to recognize Senator TOM HARKIN from Iowa, the sponsor of the bill before us, who has been a tireless champion for the Civil Air Patrol. Senator HARKIN has been a member of CAP for 30 years and is a commander of the Congressional Squadron.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 309 and join me in honoring the Civil Air Patrol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 309.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 685) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Amer-

ican Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 685

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) An American Fighter Ace is a fighter pilot who has served honorably in a United States military service and who has destroyed 5 or more confirmed enemy aircraft in aerial combat during a war or conflict in which American armed forces have participated.

(2) Beginning with World War I, and the first use of airplanes in warfare, military services have maintained official records of individual aerial victory credits during every major conflict. Of more than 60,000 United States military fighter pilots that have taken to the air, less than 1,500 have become Fighter Aces.

(3) Americans became Fighter Aces in the Spanish Civil War, Sino-Japanese War, Russian Civil War, Arab-Israeli War, and others. Additionally, American military groups recruited United States military pilots to form the American Volunteer Group, Eagle Squadron, and others that produced American-born Fighter Aces fighting against axis powers prior to Pearl Harbor.

(4) The concept of a Fighter Ace is that they fought for freedom and democracy across the globe, flying in the face of the enemy to defend freedom throughout the history of aerial combat. American-born citizens became Fighter Aces flying under the flag of United States allied countries and became some of the highest scoring Fighter Aces of their respective wars.

(5) American Fighter Aces hail from every State in the Union, representing numerous ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.

(6) Fighter Aces possess unique skills that have made them successful in aerial combat. These include courage, judgment, keen marksmanship, concentration, drive, persistence, and split-second thinking that makes an Ace a war fighter with unique and valuable flight driven skills.

(7) The Aces' training, bravery, skills, sacrifice, attention to duty, and innovative spirit illustrate the most celebrated traits of the United States military, including service to country and the protection of freedom and democracy.

(8) American Fighter Aces have led distinguished careers in the military, education, private enterprise, and politics. Many have held the rank of General or Admiral and played leadership roles in multiple war efforts from WWI to Vietnam through many decades. In some cases they became the highest ranking officers for following wars.

(9) The extraordinary heroism of the American Fighter Ace boosted American morale at home and encouraged many men and women to enlist to fight for America and democracy across the globe.

(10) Fighter Aces were among America's most-prized military fighters during wars. When they rotated back to the United States after combat tours, they trained cadets in fighter pilot tactics that they had learned over enemy skies. The teaching of combat dogfighting to young aviators strengthened

our fighter pilots to become more successful in the skies. The net effect of this was to shorten wars and save the lives of young Americans.

(11) Following military service, many Fighter Aces became test pilots due to their superior flying skills and quick thinking abilities.

(12) Richard Bong was America's top Ace of all wars scoring a confirmed 40 enemy victories in WWII. He was from Poplar, Wisconsin, and flew the P-38 Lightning in all his combat sorties flying for the 49th Fighter Group. He was killed in 1945 during a P-80 test flight in which the engine flamed out on takeoff.

(13) The American Fighter Aces are one of the most decorated military groups in American history. Twenty-two Fighter Aces have achieved the rank of Admiral in the Navy. Seventy-nine Fighter Aces have achieved the rank of General in the Army, Marines, and Air Force. Nineteen Medals of Honor have been awarded to individual Fighter Aces.

(14) The American Fighter Aces Association has existed for over 50 years as the primary organization with which the Aces have preserved their history and told their stories to the American public. The Association established and maintains the Outstanding Cadet in Airmanship Award presented annually at the United States Air Force Academy; established and maintains an awards program for outstanding fighter pilot "lead-in" trainee graduates from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps; and sponsors a scholarship program for descendants of American Fighter Aces.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom, which has spanned the history of aviation warfare.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the American Fighter Aces, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the American Fighter Aces, and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medal struck pursuant to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 685, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, there has been a lot of recognition about those who have served our country, so I rise in support of H.R. 685, the American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act, introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JOHNSON).

This bill authorizes the minting and award of a single gold medal in recognition of the American fighter aces' heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom, which has spanned the history of aviation warfare.

Once awarded, the medal will be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be available for display or loan, as appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, this country has had many military heroes in its history, men and women who have fought valiantly and who have often died in the process to defend freedom around the world. All are heroes, but none has captured the imagination more than the American fighter ace, flying usually alone, directly at the enemy.

Each of us knows the story of one or more aces, but probably few know the stories of more than a couple of them. I think most people would be surprised to know that there are more than 1,500 of the more than 60,000 U.S. combat pilots who have achieved ace status by destroying five or more enemy aircraft in combat.

What even fewer know is that not all of these pilots flew for the U.S., even as they flew in the defense of U.S. ideals. Some flew in the British Royal Air Force, in the Canadian Royal Air Force, and in the French Lafayette Escadrille in World War I before the U.S. entered the war.

American aces flew in the Spanish Civil War, in the Sino-Japanese War, in the Arab-Israeli War; and in echoing the recent tensions in Ukraine, one American fighter collected his victories while flying for the White Russian Air Force against the Red Air Force just after World War I.

Mr. Speaker, the stories of America's fighter aces are full of the kind of courage and sacrifice we all think of as emblematic of our country.

It would be easy for me to tell a few of those tales, but I think the story of

the fighter aces and of fighter pilots in general can best be told by the man who will be my side's next speaker—the author of this bill, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas.

As I am sure all of the Members of this Chamber know, Mr. JOHNSON is a decorated fighter pilot from both the Korean and Vietnam wars, who spent several years in a North Vietnamese prison after being shot down on his 25th mission.

After noting that this bill is now sponsored by 312 Members of the House and that a Senate version passed on March 26 with 81 cosponsors, I urge the bill's immediate passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Many Congressional Gold Medal bills passing today are special, but with all due respect, this is particularly special.

□ 1745

I rise in support of H.R. 685, the American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act. As suggested, this bill establishes a Congressional Gold Medal honoring American fighter aces for their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom.

Most Americans are familiar with the aerial feats of Tom Cruise's "Maverick" in the award-winning and popular movie, "Top Gun," but not enough people really understand what it was that the real fighter aces went through. To become an American fighter ace, a fighter pilot must destroy five or more enemy aircraft in aerial combat during a war or conflict in which U.S. Armed Forces have participated.

I am unbelievably proud and humbled today to represent one of the remaining fighter aces in Washington's 10th Congressional District, retired Commander Clarence Alvin Borley, or, as he is known by his friends, "Spike."

Like many aces, his story is simply incredible. Commander Borley is a Navy F6F Hellcat ace. He had a total of five aerial victories flying off the U.S. carrier the USS *Essex* between May and October of 1945.

In fact, on October 12, Commander Borley was shot down after his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire. He flew out 2 miles off the coast of what was then known as Formosa, crash-landing in the ocean. He exited his plane in full gear and inflated his yellow Mae West life preserver and floated as his Hellcat sank.

Shortly thereafter, a boat approached him with Japanese soldiers on it. He reached down and pulled his handgun, which had been soaking in the ocean water, fired, killed two enemy combatants, and the boat fled. Thereafter, Commander Borley swam further away from Formosa.

Because it was a tremendous aerial combat day, later that day several rafts were dropped into the ocean for the pilots. Commander Borley dragged himself into one. He spent four nights

in that raft. Mind you, he had no water, no food, and no shade. He kept getting further and further from Formosa.

It took 100 hours for him to be rescued. In fact, the USS *Sawfish* was the ship that finally pulled him out of the water. Again, he had no water, no food, and no shade—and there were rough seas. I believe he had a canteen when he went down, but he capsized several times and lost it.

Commander Borley of Olympia, Washington, is a true American hero, and I know I speak for many when I say we are deeply appreciative of all he has done for us.

American fighter aces like Commander Borley are the best of the best in air-to-air combat. They engaged the enemy time and time again in East Asia, the South Pacific, and Europe—and they won. Yet their accomplishments have never been collectively recognized. Their aerial supremacy has never been honored by Congress—until today.

The Museum of Flight in Seattle, which is a spectacular institution, and its chairman, Bill Ayer, deserve special recognition and thanks for their constant support and dedication to this effort. It is the home of the greatest World War I and World War II fighters in America. It has committed countless time and hours and energy to honoring the American fighter ace.

I am honored beyond words to be the cosponsor of this bill with the gentleman from Texas. And I cannot exaggerate this. I suspect this is the first time in my 17 months in Congress we will vote on the same side of an issue. I cannot tell you the depth of my gratitude for his 29 years of military service and all that he sacrificed and endured on behalf of us. What a fitting acknowledgment of his service here—and to all of America. I am humbled to join him in this effort.

I encourage all of our colleagues to support H.R. 685 in recognition of the American fighter aces. Out of 60,000 aerial aviators, about 95 aces are left. There hasn't been a fighter ace "created" since the Vietnam war. And for those who are, it is difficult for them to talk about this because, frankly, they are very, very modest. I know this from personal conversations.

When I went to the national convention of fighter aces last year and spoke with so many of them, they are very modest about this. That is, frankly, all the more reason why it is incumbent upon us to lift up their contribution and their sacrifice. And I am humbled to join Mr. JOHNSON in this.

Please support H.R. 685.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), the House's ace and the author of this legislation.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, listening to the previous speakers, I knew General Doolittle. He wasn't an ace, but he should have been.

I would like to start by thanking my friend and colleague from Washington State (Mr. HECK) for his leadership on this bill. I also want to thank Chairman HENSARLING of the Financial Services Committee and the House leadership for bringing H.R. 685, the American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act, to the floor.

This bill, which already has the support of 312 Members of this body, honors an elite group of American fighter pilots known as fighter aces with Congress' highest recognition, the Congressional Gold Medal.

Additionally, I want to thank the American Fighter Aces Association, specifically Mr. Gregg Wagner, for his advocacy and for the association's efforts in recognizing this influential group of American fighter pilots.

Aces are U.S. fighter pilots credited with destroying five or more confirmed enemy aircraft in aerial combat. More than 60,000 U.S. military fighter pilots have taken to the air. However, less than 1,500 have been honored with the coveted status of fighter ace.

During my 29 years of service in the U.S. Air Force I was credited with one confirmed MiG kill, one probable, and one damaged. I personally am not an ace, Mr. Speaker. However, having personally met and flown with some of those guys, I can speak to the sacrifice, risk, and contribution these fighter pilots make in protecting our freedoms.

Allow me to share a little bit about the lives of two aces whom I personally knew. One is an American hero, dear friend, and fellow POW we lost last year, Brigadier General Robbie Risner.

Robbie flew more than 100 combat missions over North Korea and became the 20th fighter ace of the Korean war. He shot down eight Russian-built MiGs and received the Silver Star for a life-threatening midair maneuver to steer a fellow pilot to safety.

During the Vietnam war, he led the first flight of Operation Rolling Thunder, a high-intensity aerial bombing of North Vietnam, for which he received the Air Force Cross and was featured on the cover of Time magazine for his bravery, valor, and accomplishments.

The other is an American patriot and good friend who went home to meet our Lord and Savior in 2009, Colonel Hal Fischer.

Hal served in the military for 30 years and also became an ace during the Korean war, with 10 confirmed aerial victories. I was in that same wing.

While rising through the ranks to colonel, he flew 200 missions in Vietnam and 175 missions in Korea. On April 7, 1953, he entered into a fierce dogfight with North Korean MiG-15s near the Yalu River, where his F-86 Sabre jet was shot down.

Forced to eject, Fischer parachuted into enemy territory and was quickly taken by Chinese soldiers as a prisoner

of war. After being tortured and kept in dark, damp cells with no bed for 2 years, he was released and returned to Active Duty 2 months later.

This is just a glimpse into the lives and heroic acts fighter aces performed during every mission. American fighter aces have led distinguished careers in the military, education, private enterprise, and politics. This elite group has carried out their duties with honor, integrity, dignity and respect.

They are the best of the best, the cream of the crop in air-to-air combat. They have engaged the enemy time and time again over the South Pacific, Europe, and East Asia—and won. They contributed to the aerial supremacy of the United States. They have shortened wars and saved lives. Yet they have never been rightfully honored—at least not until now. I am honored to say that today we have an opportunity to change that.

Today is the day these American patriots will receive a special homage, the highest possible honor Congress can bestow: the Congressional Gold Medal.

Sadly, of the 1,500 U.S. fighter aces this bill recognizes, only a few hundred remain with us today. While we have lost many American fighter aces, this Gold Medal is an important step in honoring and remembering their exemplary service to our country.

As we ponder the blessings of service and sacrifice of those who wear the uniform, especially with Memorial Day just around the corner, we can only humbly acknowledge that we are the land of the free because of the brave. These men are shining examples of everything great that America stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor the heroism, duty, service, courage, and sacrifice of American fighter aces than in the week before Memorial Day. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor that Congress can bestow, and I can think of no group more deserving than this elite group of fighter pilots. I thank you for joining me in that effort.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to join all my colleagues in thanking our colleague from Texas for underscoring this important legislation and for his service.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 685, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2203, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 685, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACK NICKLAUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2203) to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 10, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 218]

YEAS—371

Aderholt	Blumenauer	Carson (IN)
Amodei	Bonamici	Carter
Bachmann	Boustany	Cartwright
Bachus	Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)
Barber	Braley (IA)	Castro (TX)
Barletta	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Barr	Brooks (IN)	Chu
Barrow (GA)	Brown (FL)	Cicilline
Barton	Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)
Bass	Buchanan	Clay
Beatty	Bucshon	Cleaver
Becerra	Burgess	Clyburn
Benishek	Bustos	Coble
Bentivolio	Butterfield	Coffman
Bera (CA)	Byrne	Cohen
Billirakis	Camp	Collins (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Campbell	Collins (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Capps	Conaway
Bishop (UT)	Capuano	Connolly
Black	Cardenas	Conyers
Blackburn	Carney	Cook